



THE QUANTITY SURVEYOR

Visiting Swaziland, one can see that the country is hard at work towards achieving its vision 2022 of becoming a first-world country. At the centre of all the major developments taking place are our MUT alumni, one of whom is Merica Vilakati (Civil Engineering class of 2005) who is at the forefront of several major projects under his employer Inyatsi Construction.

Merica Vilakati - Class of '05

The humble gentleman, who holds dear memories of his three years at MUT, is Site Agent for a major sewer line construction project. His responsibilities include managing site finances and personnel, while making sure that the project team delivers on time. He has worked on many projects including managing the construction of platforms for the International Convention Centre, a R134 million project. His other recent major projects include the King Mswati III International airport which was officially opened in March 2014. He says, "I am very fortunate to have studied at MUT. There is something different about the MUT Civil Engineering qualification. You constantly relate back and realise that the qualification is so relevant; we see all the things we were taught in class bearing fruits on a daily basis."

Merica believes that exposure to diverse cultures at MUT made him grow and understand other people, and he wishes he could have stayed longer. The relations built at MUT have provided him with a strong network of mentors. The greatest joy for Merica is that his position in the company allows him to empower young civil engineering students from local colleges through mentoring and placements. Some have secured permanent employment after a year or two under his supervision. To unwind, Merica hooks up with other Swaziland-based MUT alumni on weekends and they challenge one another in the soccer field. This is attested to by a glittering trophy and medals displayed in his office.